



# PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AT HARRISBURG, FOR INFORMATION OF BOARDS OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, AND INTERESTED CITIZENS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2904D OF THE SCHOOL LAWS.

VOLUME 2

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## PUBLIC SCHOOL RECOVERY DRIVE NOW UNDER WAY

### Citizens' Conference Successfully Opens State Campaign to Create Public Sentiment for Acceptable Legislative Program

FIRST STEPS in a state-wide movement to create effective public sentiment for complete school recovery were taken when 1800 people attended the Citizens' Conference on School Recovery in Pennsylvania, held in Harrisburg October 10 and 11.

The keynote of the Conference was sounded at the opening session by Governor Pinchot when he declared the 1935 General Assembly "simply must act" to meet the school emergency situation. He emphasized that favorable action is conditioned on "effective public sentiment."

One speaker after another decried the weaknesses in the present antiquated school district organization plan and existing methods of school support, giving concrete facts showing why revisions should be made without delay. Conference themes were based on the 3 R's of School Recovery, with the entire second day's sessions being devoted to district organization and school finance. Thirteen hundred citizens and school people registered during the conference, and the Forum was filled almost to capacity at the opening session. Scores of school delegates declared the gathering was the most significant and successful public education meeting ever held in Pennsylvania.

The second step in the school recovery program is discussion of school problems by citizens in their local communities, Superintendent Rule declared as he closed the conference. Such meetings should be held prior to January 1, he said. Thursday, November 8, during American Education Week, has been recommended as an appropriate time for such community meetings.

#### MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE

"The next step is up to you," he told members of the conference who represented every county in the State. "The next step you must take, in calling together groups of citizens in your various communities and carrying to them the message of this conference and giving them opportunity to discuss in detail, pro and con, the various points raised here and, help work out, if possible, on a state-wide basis, an acceptable legislative program that will receive general support."

The third and final step is presentation to the Legislature of a school recovery program that will have some chance of success, he said. Following the conference Dr. Rule said no effort has yet been made toward setting up a specific legislative program, and before any such action is taken it will be a distinct advantage to

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### Speakers Give Pointed Facts on Public School Emergency as Reorganization of Districts and Revision of Support are Recommended

THE LAST regular session of the General Assembly failed to meet the situation. A new school code was laid before it but the protests against consolidation from all over the State blocked enactment of any but purely emergency and makeshift legislation. The next session simply must act.—GOVERNOR PINCHOT.

This gathering will succeed in its major purpose only if it is followed by conferences back in local areas for the purpose of developing an informed public sentiment back of the school recovery program.—SUPERINTENDENT RULE.

During the last five years there have left the schools of the United States, either by graduation or by the adoption of some other form of activity or idleness, about ten million young people. Where have they gone? —CHARLES H. JUDD.

We all know that developments of the last few years have shown that that source of revenues (real estate) for the support of our school system is neither permanent, adequate, nor stable.—WALTER BIDDLE SAUL.

What happens to the schools has got to be conditioned on what you are able to make the Legislature see needs to happen to the schools...What a Legislature responds to is not resolutions, not good wishes, but it is effective public sentiment.—GOVERNOR PINCHOT.

Everywhere there is pressure to reduce the school budget. Schools are subject to destructive criticism, courses are cut down, and teaching staffs are reduced. If this policy is allowed to go on, it will leave an ugly scar across the lives of tomorrow.—OTTO F. MESSNER, Past Commander of the American Legion.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor pledges support to the American Federation of Labor report on public education which unreservedly pledges itself to the defense of the public school system to its full and complete restoration; to the maintenance of educational standards for the development of character, culture and citizenship, and to the principle of equal educational opportunity for all children regardless of race, creed or social status.—JOHN A. PHILLIPS, President, Pennsylvania Federation of Labor.

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### ACT NOW!

NOW is the time for friends of public education to act if the forthcoming session of the General Assembly is to receive an acceptable program of school recovery legislation. NOW is the time to talk it over and decide what steps are necessary. After January 1 it will be too late.

Public schools belong to the people. The public has owned and directed them for 100 years. Our schools face a grave emergency. What we do now will have far-reaching effect on the future of the State and Nation.

In this emergency it should NOT become necessary for school people arbitrarily to recommend what they think might be acceptable legislation. That task rightfully belongs to those who own the schools. It is a job for the Citizens of Pennsylvania, the friends of public education.

Organize and join local community conferences on school recovery. Translate your findings into action NOW. A definite and acceptable legislative program cannot be drafted until public sentiment is known. ACT NOW!

JAMES N. RULE



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## READY TO GO!

A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, representing twenty-five organizations, has been organized in Philadelphia "to cooperate with school authorities in a helpful and constructive way." This group plans to cooperate in the school recovery program as it affects the Philadelphia communities.

The Citizens' Committee is composed of delegates representing the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Parents Council, Federation of Women's Clubs, and other similar groups.

The general purpose of the committee is to arouse public interest in educational problems and urge upon the various civic groups the consideration of educational problems, and of such action as would lead to helpful legislation.

Where criticism would help, the committee will be critical, and where commendation and encouragement will help, that will be the policy of the committee.

This is concrete evidence that citizens of Philadelphia are more than ready to take the second step in Pennsylvania's School Recovery Program.

## DAVID B. OLIVER

PENNSYLVANIA lost one of its outstanding citizens, and public education one of its most effective, resourceful friends, in the death of David B. Oliver on October 21, just ten days before he was to have observed his 100th birthday anniversary.

Mr. Oliver's life paralleled within a few months the first century of free public education in the State of his adoption. At the time of his death and for fifty-four years preceding, he was an active member of the Pittsburgh Board of Education, a record probably unequaled in the United States. One of his greatest contributions to public education in Pennsylvania was direction of the drafting of the School Code of 1911. Public Education owes him a heavy debt of gratitude for his signal contributions to the schools of this State.

In terms of constructive service no layman in Pennsylvania has ever contributed more to public education than David B. Oliver.

## 3 R's IN PAMPHLET FORM

ONE of the features of the Citizens' Conference was distribution of a pamphlet "The Three R's of School Recovery in Pennsylvania." Readers of PUBLIC EDUCATION are familiar with the contents through presentation of the Three R's in the July, August, and September issues. This same material was reprinted in a sixteen page pamphlet illustrated with graphic cuts. A total of 25,000 copies have been distributed to date through delegates to the conference and through county and district superintendents. An additional limited supply is available, upon request, for emergency distribution.

## Special Education Conference

The third annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Conference for the Education of Exceptional Children was held in Harrisburg, September 28 and 29. More than four hundred school people engaged in special education were in attendance.

Superintendent Rule, in addressing the opening session, in a general way reviewed the growth of special classes for the mentally and physically handicapped in the public schools. In 1920, there were 167 special classes in 24 school districts. Today there are 825 special classes in 84 school districts with 45 full time administrators and supervisors. Dr. Rule further declared that the education of mentally and physically handicapped children is an integral part of the public school program and is just as much of a responsibility as the education of normal children.

Dr. Rule was followed by Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman, Professor of Social Philosophy, New York School of Social Work who spoke on, "Educational Confusions and Democracy's Dilemma." "Our task," he said, "is to discover not merely how to bring education to everyone but how to bring the right kind of education to the right person so that he finds his function in this form of society in a creative and positive sense."

Dr. Robert A. Brotemarkle, Director of Personnel, and Professor of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, in his address, "Education Rediscovered Personality" said "education must find the interpretation of human personality in the basic analysis of normal human development," and "the changing social order is demanding of education that its task be met from this more wholesome point of view."

Section meetings convened Saturday morning for teachers of the blind and partially sighted; the deaf, the speech defective, and the hard-of-hearing; the crippled; the malnourished; and the orthogenic backward and orthogenic disciplinary. A Vocational Education and Vocational Guidance Section was organized.

Officers elected for the following year: Miss Edna Clare Righter, Pittsburgh, president; Miss Mary Farbaugh, Pittsburgh, first vice-president; Mr. William W. Hazlett, Jr., Philadelphia, second vice-president; Miss Clare Ruddy, Easton, recording secretary; Miss Edna M. Kugler, Harrisburg, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Lillian Bitner, Philadelphia, member-at-large. The 1935 meeting of the Conference will be held in Harrisburg, September 27 and 28.

## Education Calendar

1934

Nov. 2-3—Pa. Association of Deans of Women, Harrisburg.

Nov. 2-3—Bucknell University Conference on Education, Lewisburg.

American Education Week  
November 5-11

Nov. 5—Planning for Tomorrow

Nov. 6—Developing New Types of Schooling

Nov. 7—Improving the Rural School

Nov. 8—Financing Our Schools (mass meetings)

Nov. 9—Quickening the Sense of Civic Responsibility

Nov. 10—Preparing for New Kinds of Service

Nov. 11—Enriching Character through Education

Nov. 11—Armistice Day (Nov. 12 Legal Holiday)

Nov. 11-17—Children's Book Week

Nov. 28—Thanks for Health Day

Nov. 29—Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 5-8—American Vocational Association, Pittsburgh

Dec. 26-28—State Convention of P.S.E.A., Harrisburg

1935

Feb. 6-7—State School Directors' Association, Harrisburg

Feb. 23-28—Department of Superintendence, N.E.A., Atlantic City, N. J.

Mar. 15-16—Second Annual Education Conference of Secondary School Teachers, St. Thomas College, Scranton.

## School Board Time Table

November 1 to February 15, inclusive

The following dates are based on Sections of the School Code indicated:

Nov. 1—Application for appropriation\* (1210). Summary of enumeration\* (1426).

Nov. 15—Attendance report for October (1436).

Dec. 1—Annual report of consolidated schools (317). Secondary school classification report and preliminary vocational school reports (2904 and 3405).

Jan. 3—Report of firms employing minors\* (317).

Feb. 15—Attendance report for January (1436).

\* To be submitted by the board secretary.

## INAUGURALS PLANNED

Plans have been completed for the formal installation of two State Teachers College presidents during November. Inauguration of Dr. Charles S. Miller takes place at Slippery Rock on Saturday the tenth, and Dr. Carmon Ross will be inducted at Edinboro on Wednesday the twenty-fourth. Impressive ceremonies will take place at each institution under direction of the respective trustee boards.

One evidence of the interest of secondary schools in providing an opportunity for education in home and family life is the request on the part of a number of school districts for assistance and guidance in developing departments of homemaking. Twenty-three new vocational homemaking departments have been approved for the current school year.

LEBANON VALLEY—As a part of its official observance of the 100th anniversary of free schools the college on October 12 presented the Hedgerow Players in "Inheritors" before a capacity audience.



## CITIZENS' CONFERENCE

(Concluded from Page 1)

have such suggestions that undoubtedly will come out of community meetings. No recommendations or resolutions came from the conference of October 10 and 11, the purpose of the gathering being to inform delegates of facts in the case so they might be broadcast to every section of the State.

Conference addresses emphasized need for action and messages from representative state-wide organizations reflected the interest and support that can be expected in the general recovery and reconstruction program. The Governor and speakers on the school finance program advocated revision of support in no uncertain terms. The income tax and other heretofore untouched sources of revenue were recommended, together with uniformity of assessments and other measures that would tend to equalize financial support. These items provide a wealth of material for local discussions.

### ADDRESSES PUBLISHED

Conference addresses hold so much significance for friends of education that some have been reproduced in full, and all others in abstract form, and are published as a supplement to this issue of PUBLIC EDUCATION. These proceedings, combined with the conference pamphlet, "The 3 R's of School Recovery in Pennsylvania," will provide speakers for local school meetings with a wealth of usable information.

Governor Pinchot's address was accepted warmly at the opening session on Wednesday evening. He reviewed generally those existing school conditions which need changing to accomplish school recovery, and outlined educational legislation and support during his administration. He particularly emphasized the need for creating public sentiment to obtain action through the coming Legislature.

Superintendent Rule, following the Governor on the program, emphasized the importance for immediate action and reviewed the conference program and its purposes.

The national public school situation was discussed by Dr. Charles H. Judd, University of Chicago, and he gave his audience a background which emphasized the seriousness of Pennsylvania's situation.

At the opening session Thursday morning, Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall, Director of the Brookings Institution, presented the futility of continuing long out-grown municipal government units.

State Treasurer Charles A. Waters recommended reorganization of school districts as a measure of economy and efficiency.

Dr. James C. Miller, University of Pennsylvania, speaking on the same program, advocated early revision of governmental units and outlined specific economies and advantages that would result.

Under the general topic "Financing the Public Schools" at the third and final session N. R. Criss, solicitor for the Pittsburgh Board of Education, presented difficulties encountered by the larger cities in school finance problems.

A State graduated income tax to assist in relief for real estate taxation was advocated by Francis R. Cope, Jr., a member of the State Council of Education, and he said more State aid is essential so that schools in rural sections may provide greater opportunities for their children.

Taxes on incomes and intangibles were recommended by Dr. Marion K. McKay, professor of economics, University of Pittsburgh. He outlined a series of possibilities

## CONFERENCE REPORT SUPPLEMENT

**A**LL addresses at the Citizens' Conference were most timely and of great value to lay leaders and speakers at proposed community conferences on school recovery. We regret that it is impossible to present the entire proceedings for readers of PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Several of the addresses have been reproduced in complete form and abstracts of all other conference messages are contained in the supplement which accompanies this issue. A limited supply of additional copies is available. We trust that these supplements will be of assistance in presenting facts concerning the school recovery situation before local mass meetings during the weeks ahead and preceding the coming session of the General Assembly. It is hoped by that time to have a concrete program of action ready for presentation to the Legislature. Such a program should represent as far as can be determined, the consensus of public opinion on pending educational problems.

whereby relief may be brought to realty taxation.

Special attention is called to the conference greetings extended by the American Legion, the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, the Pennsylvania State Grange, the Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women. These indicate a cross section of interest and degree of support possible from state-wide organizations interested in the future of the children of the Commonwealth.

### EMERGENCY EDUCATION APPOINTMENTS

The following have been added to the emergency education staff of the Department of Public Instruction working jointly with the Department and the State Works Division. The appointments were made jointly by Eric H. Biddle, Emergency Relief administrator, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Chas. M. Emerick, Director of Emergency Education; Myra Woodruff, Supervisor, Emergency Nursery Schools and Parent Education; C. H. English, Supervisor of Emergency Education Recreation; Dr. Harvey Salt, Supervisor of English and Citizenship; and Dr. Thaddeus Rich, Supervisor of Music. Miss Rachel Turner and Mr. J. Elliott Fisher remain with the staff as assistant directors.

**PENN STATE**—Almost 300 enrollments are reported in the four communities requesting instructional service above the high school level. These centers are in Pottsville, Hazleton, Sayre-Towanda, and Uniontown. The curriculum parallels the first year work on the campus.

**ALBRIGHT**—Under the supervision of Willy Richter, well known director of music throughout Pennsylvania, the college has developed a choral club of 100 men and women. Several concerts are planned for the city of Reading with a proposed tour in the spring. The new library, and Alumni Memorial building is being rushed to completion.

## SPEAKERS GIVE FACTS

(Concluded from Page 1)

In these days of unbalanced budgets and swollen governmental expenditures, there is no subject more important than "Organization of Governmental Units in the Interest of Economy and Efficiency."...In the days of mud roads and ox cart transportation the basing of our school districts on arbitrary lines such as creeks and hills, was excusable. Today such an arbitrary unit is a nuisance. —CHARLES A. WATERS, *State Treasurer*.

The vital challenge of this conference is to the public conscience that we finance intelligently and adequately our public schools, thus relieving the public school administrators to their real service.—MRS. STUART L. HENDERSON, *Pennsylvania League of Women Voters*.

Teachers' salaries need to be raised instead of reduced. Our schools can be no better than our teachers and we certainly cannot get the teachers we ought to have if we are only going to pay the unskilled factory wage scale....The temporary cut ends next June. I recommend most earnestly that the cut be ended and the former salary scale be restored.—GOVERNOR PINCHOT.

I present to you our continued support in helping to build up a system of schools in Pennsylvania that will be a credit not only to the rural people of the State, but to the State and Nation.—JOHN H. LIGHT, *Secretary, Pennsylvania State Grange*.

We are preparing now to do our part in the important problem of adequate school organization and support and endeavoring to carry out the resolutions passed by our national convention, May, 1934.—MRS. WALTER E. GREENWOOD, *President, Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers*.

Let us through revised legislation put into operation a plan of financial support which shall make the public school education of every child in Pennsylvania secure against the rise and fall of the stock market.—MRS. MULFORD STOUGH, *State Federation of Pennsylvania Women*.

There can be no valid justification for the failure to make serious effort to tax intangibles. When this is done there will be a clear possibility of relief for real estate.—PROFESSOR MARION K. MCKAY.

### AT RADIO HEARING

Superintendent James N. Rule testified at the early October hearings of the Federal Communication Commission at Washington on the proposal that educational, religious, and other non-profit agencies be allocated fixed percentages of radio broadcasting facilities.

As a member of the National Committee on Education by Radio, Dr. Rule spoke on behalf of the National Council of State Superintendents of Public Instruction, and devoted his testimony to indicating to the Commission the organization of the Department of Public Instruction, and the various educational functions it is called upon to render which could be enhanced by the use of radio.

School people will be interested in a new series of broadcasts on "You and Your Government" now scheduled for each Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 7:45, Eastern Standard Time, over the NBC-WEAF nation-wide network.



## PARENT-TEACHER CONVENTION

Reported by Mrs. W. G. Briner, Narberth

The 33rd convention of the Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers convened in Scranton, Pa., October 9th, 10th, and 11th, with Mrs. Walter E. Greenwood, President of the Pennsylvania Congress, presiding. The programs were built about the convention theme "Developing Social Responsibility through the Home, School, and Community."

Our National President, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, was guest speaker on three occasions. In her first address, using as her topic "The Bridge across the Chasm," Mrs. Langworthy stressed the need of a bridge to span the gap between the home and the school, which has widened during the past several years. The speaker said nothing can be done without an understanding cooperation between the home and school. She cited our summer round-up as an aid in sending our young children into the kindergarten free from remedial defects. The health of the child depends a great deal upon the cooperation between the home and the school. Character education cannot be brought about if the home nullifies what the schools teach in good citizenship, in spiritual values, in integrity; nor can it be accomplished if the home teaches virtue and the school scoffs at it.

Dr. Mary Riggs Noble, of the State Department of Health, also State Chairman of Summer Round-up, which is one of P.T.A.'s major projects, explained the necessity of a physical examination for every child prior to his entry into school. Two hundred eighty-three associations in the state have taken blanks for Summer Round-up.

In Mrs. Langworthy's second address entitled "Establishment of Social Responsibility through the Home," the following points were developed:

- (1) The first great responsibility in the home is the everyday attitude of the father and the mother—the respect for one another's opinion. Here the child gets his first idea of social responsibility.
- (2) The child should be taught that he is a unit of a great community.
- (3) The child should be taught to treat dumb animals kindly.
- (4) Character education.
- (5) Respect for work and the working class.
- (6) Safety.
- (7) Beware of improper and loose table talk.
- (8) Mothers' attitudes concerning daughters' participation in home duties.
- (9) Teaching good citizenship.

In closing, Mrs. Langworthy said "The planting is done in the home, the church waters it, the school cultivates it."

Dr. Henry Crane was the guest speaker at the Gold Star banquet. He stated that as a child is taught to think, so will that child become; unworthy thoughts develop unworthy character.

At the Thursday afternoon session, the chief speaker was Mrs. Naldah Ross, of Scranton, who spoke on "Culture in the Home." Mothers should spend one hour daily in absolute rest, she said. They should cultivate tolerance on the part of every member of the family. They should acquire the ability to stimulate interesting family conversation, especially at the dinner table. They should take a keen interest in everything cultural.

One of the outstanding addresses was delivered at the Thursday evening session by Dr. Margaret Wells Wood, of the American Social Hygiene Society, New York City. Her topic was "Growing up in the World Today." Following is a digest of the address:

Marriage, home-making, and parenthood

are able to offer to man and woman the greatest opportunity for increasing satisfaction, comfort, security, and personality development. If there is inadequate education and preparation for these there will be disillusionment, remorse, regret, and scars for the children born to the union. Broken homes proclaim to the world the futility of continuing a system whereby youth is educated to earn a living and is totally illiterate in the art of living itself. Youth has a right to real and adequate preparation for life, that he may come to his best, find real and satisfying happiness, and pass on his best to the race.

A. W. Castle, chief of the division of extension education of the State Department of Public Instruction, addressed the convention on the topic, "Developing Social Responsibility through the School." In Mr. Castle's opinion the schools are striving to develop admirable traits of character and citizenship. "To develop a function," he said, "it is necessary to exercise those functions; and to develop initiative in a child, the child must exercise authority."

An outstanding event of the convention was a tree planting ceremony dedicated to the memory of Mrs. William Brice, a past president of the Pennsylvania Congress. A sturdy oak, the symbol of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, was presented to the West Scranton Junior High School by Mrs. Greenwood. Dr. John Dyer accepted the tree on behalf of the school.

Mrs. C. H. Wilmington, State Chairman of Membership, reported a gain of sixteen thousand members during the past two years, making a total of 78,356 members in Pennsylvania.

### RESOLUTIONS

Among the resolutions adopted by the convention are the following, pertaining to education:

- (1) Revision downward in Real Estate Taxation.
- (2) Consolidation of School Districts, based on natural boundaries and population density.
- (3) Wise economy in school administration, employing teachers fully qualified and amply paid.
- (4) That Federal Emergency Relief be solicited to bridge the gap until Pennsylvania has had time to revamp its system of taxation for school purposes.
- (5) That both County and City Councils and local Associations give careful attention to all legislative measures drafted and presented.

### OFFICERS ELECTED

Mrs. H. H. Hall, of Williamsport, was elected president of the Pennsylvania Congress of Parents and Teachers. Mrs. Hall has been an ardent Parent-Teacher worker for a number of years. Other officers chosen were: Vice Presidents—District 1, Mrs. C. C. Campbell, Oxford; District 2, Marshall Dean, New Cumberland; District 3, Mrs. E. A. Hower, Johnstown; District 4, Mrs. R. E. Seldon, Pittsburgh; District 5, Mrs. William Ogsbury, Jr., Erie; District 6, Mrs. Clarence Huling, Williamsport; District 7, Mrs. George Butz, Schuylkill Haven; Secretary—Mrs. C. I. Chamberlain, Erie; Treasurer—Mrs. John McGahan, Johnstown.

A distinctive contribution to the 100th anniversary of free schools in Pennsylvania was the October issue of *The School Bank*, published in Philadelphia. Four pages are devoted to the early history of public schools, attractively illustrated.

## Federation Observes Education Night

Education Night was observed by the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women during the annual convention in Harrisburg, Wednesday evening, October 17, in the Forum of the Education Building. Through this program the Federation marked its official contribution to observance of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the free school law.

The guest speaker was Dr. Rollo G. Reynolds, principal of the Horace Mann School, Teachers College, Columbia University. The keynote of his message to an audience of 1600 was that economies in education are fruitless "while political graft is tolerated." He severely criticized educational methods that are too archaic for present day needs.

In presenting Dr. Reynolds, Superintendent Rule asked delegates to urge their local clubs to form study groups on the problems of public school recovery and to contribute suggestions for a legislative program.

The school anniversary program included dramatization of 100 Years of Free Education presented by the Civic Club of Camp Hill, with the assistance of pupils and faculty of the Camp Hill High School. Presentation showed incidents leading up to the passage of the free school act and its defense by Thaddeus Stevens. The group also presented a teacher examination and a typical school session of the 1840 period in contrast to an excellently well-staged modern school session.

Mrs. John M. Phillips, Pittsburgh, was elected president of the Federation for the ensuing year.

## Pennsylvania State Library Now Offers Reading Courses

The National Conference on Youth Problems which convened in Washington, D. C. on June 1 and 2 reported—"A hopeless, despairing generation of youth is a threat to national development. The welfare of youth deserves a place in all plans of social reconstruction." Because of the plight of millions of young men and women from 16 to 25 years of age who are at present out of school and out of work this Conference centered its discussion on the problem of bridging the widening gap between completion of school and employment.

For the benefit of those young people of Pennsylvania who desire to prolong the period of their education beyond the number of years for which parents can afford to pay, or local school boards can provide, the Reader's Counselor of the Pennsylvania State Library will prepare non-fee, non-credit reading courses adapted to their age, education and individual needs. Insofar as possible Principals and Teachers are requested to aid students who are unable to continue their studies either in High School or after graduation, in selecting suitable subjects. Letters advising of this service might be sent to graduates of recent years.

Books for these courses may be obtained from local libraries, supplemented by State Library loans. If no local library service is available, all required books will be furnished by the State Library.

This service is intended to help the reader, through books, to gain an increasing interest in some definite subject.